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Friend & Preacher

Now for the long letter, I thank you for so promptly answering my last, and am glad to hear that you have so far recovered your health, our God even in wrath remembers mercy, and when he lets fit in his good Providence to lay his rod upon his people, it is as a tender Father chasteneth from the love of his love; I sincerely unite with you in the wish "that you may have been spared for the glory of God and the good of men" I hear that you are going into the country, why do you not come here, now you of heart healthiness, is better than all the country in the world. the Oriental Salutation "May you die among your Friends" is full of meaning and beauty. I have been very busy for about a month past, but am now over the principal hurry, and have breathing space; the girls here are in good trim this spring, and every fine afternoon they turn out strong and thin, Broadway and the Battery are dangerous places to a man of weak nerves; he is transported with the beauty all around him, intoxicated with the delicious fragrance of the perfume attendant thereon, made dizzy with the rapid transition of his eyes from place to place in his futile attempts to scan all that fascinates, but in the midst of his hallucination is happily roused, and prevented from committing any rash act by some exquisito, who in passing him sticks his quizzing glass to his eye, and gazes upon him as if he were viewing some zoological specimen, or Quæsus Naturæ. Could you walk there with me a few moments on a fine afternoon, I should show you some of the finest specimens of the connecting links between a man and a balloon that your eyes ever beheld.

Have I ever congratulated you on our success as politicians in this

city at this Spring election? if not, suffer me to do so now: did we not whip
the big soundly? and is it not a strong evidence that however error may
prevail for a season, yet truth (omnipotent!) must and will prevail; I
believe I may also add the State of Virginia, for our further felicitations.
People begin to see that this system of partial legislation "is not the thing"
"it is cracked up to be". In your letter you say you are not a Member
of the Education Society, but should like to be: I should like to have you become
one, for I think the cause well worthy of the cordial support of all who have
at heart the advancement of the Kingdom of Our Lord. You are no doubt acquainted
with its object, and mode of operation, but I will send you the Journal of the
Society in a few days: perhaps you may recollect that while you were in this
City, one day we were speaking of the ease with which a person could give twelve
Dollars a year, for the support of a benevolent object. I have thought of it ever since,
and have determined to try to get up a Society of not less than 25 names, to each
contribution \$12 per annum into a General Fund, to be divided once a year among the
benevolent Societies by a vote of the members; if I meet with any encouragement here,
I will send you a copy of the agreement that I have drafted upon the subject.

How should God's people be moving now, for how is he preparing the way
before them, making the rough places smooth, and the crooked paths straight,
overthrowing the old conventional forms of government, and people, and awaking
a spirit of enquiry all over the Earth. is not this time, the set time to favour Zion
almost at hand, and are not the first beams of that glorious day, when God shall
be ~~reign~~ reign, breaking upon us from the Isles of the sea and the dark places of
the Earth? I believe it! & that these eyes may see it, and these ears hear of it; then
would I say "Lord now let thy servant depart in peace, for I have seen thy glory"
I suppose you have heard of the revival at Chicago Ill. that was a very
wicked place, but I hope it is very much purified.

Our Sabbath School is increasing both in numbers and in interest,
that you would raise up many men to call him blessed, and become
efficient soldiers of the Cross, and fight its battles in that great day when

when thy struggle shall come between the friends of darkness and our great Emanuel.
Our church does not lie up very fast there is fault somewhere. I humbly pray
that it may not be I, that shall drag the wheels of the Ark of salvation; one sinne
occasions the defeat of the armes of Israel, and one sinne may spoil the usefulness
of a church. How little we feel the responsibility of being "a city set on a hill, that cannot
be hid" a candle which when lighted lighteth the whole house. Sometimes when I
look far above, and my mind goes after him, whom although "He doth not appear what
we shall be, yet we know that when he cometh, we shall be like him" all things
here appear as very small, and I am enabled to view this world in its true light; but
like a glace in the mirror, I soon forget the fashion of the likeness which my soul had
seen: I think our understanding of language will differ somewhat hereafter, from
the manner in which we use it now, and instead of thinking, as now, that we cannot
afford to spend the spent, it will be our wonder that we could afford to keep ourselves a
possession, when so much good might have been done with them. What a grand
elevation can man aspire to, a comaker with the almighty, a son & heir of the eternal God.
O that he would make known unto us his righteousness, and that his truth might dwell
govern with us.

I suppose you have heard of the Union performance of Sacred Music. I
was a listener, and with one exception the pieces were well sung, and some of them
sublime; finding an answering echo in the soul, which vibrated until the harmony
shut out things visible, and drew the longing spirits prayer for those happy regions
where praise is continually resounding. You know that I am not given to the
elevating mood, but when the choir set down after having sung one of their pieces
I found my mouth wide open, and my eyes to say the last very moist.

There is not much that can be called news in the City, money is quite
scarce, but considering the season business is good, and the merchants
are looking confidently forward in the anticipation of a good business in
the fall. And now I have written you a long letter, you will find it like
lemonade, a mixture of pleasantries, the grave & the gay, the trifling & the serious; if
you derive either pleasure or benefit in reading it, then is my labour not in vain
expecting to hear from you in due time remain your friend John C. Clark